



# Runge Conservation Nature Center

July / August 2012

# HABITAT HAPPENINGS

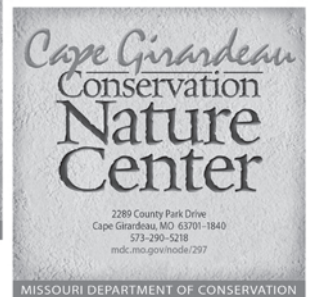
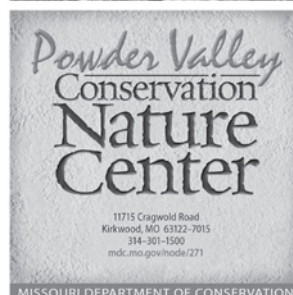
## 75 Years of Education

Kathy Cavender, Manager

Conservation education is essential to the long term health of Missouri's wild places. But, how do you educate a population of people? Education happens in formal situations like classrooms, laboratories and lecture halls. Education also happens while collecting crawdads in creeks, donning camo for hunting, and while planting natives in your landscape.

People learn in many different ways and the Missouri Department of Conservation has been in the business of education for 75 years. Search carefully through this newsletter to find ways MDC has and continues to connect Missourians to nature.

We are looking forward to learning together for many years to come.



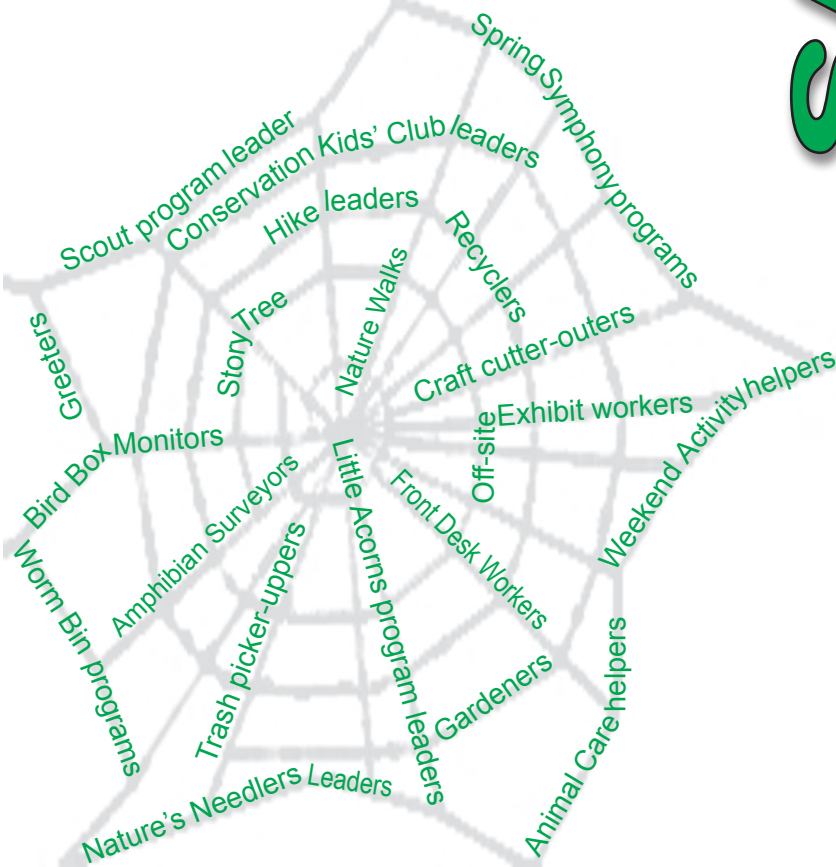
Nature centers use education known as natural history interpretation to get people excited about nature.  
MDC has 15 interpretive sites including 5 nature centers.

# Volunteer

# News

## The Runge Volunteer Web

Volunteers do so many things at Runge Nature Center. Sometimes all of their activities make me think of a ball of string that has been tossed around and become tangled like a web. The last few months have been especially busy and the staff at Runge would not have been able to meet the needs of all of our visitors if we did not have the world's best volunteers! Take a look at one of our **Volunteer** webs.



The following VOLUNTEER Naturalists were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Congratulations!

**200 hours** – Andy Tribble

**300 hours** – Nanci Beck, Lynn Shively

**400 hours** – Bruce Berger, Anne Hutton

**500 hours** – Allen Verdot

**1250 hours** – Leslie Siefert

## July/August Lobby Exhibit

### Pen Brady Exhibit

The glades and forests surrounding Pen Brady's home have provided the stimulus for her art. The diverse and continuous source of subjects-from plants and insects to birds and mammals-are the themes of her designs. Acquiring an interest in native art of the Pacific Northwest Coast in the mid-1990s, she experimented with its structure and imagery. Within a few years, the acrylic and ink paintings transformed from the traditional iconic style to her own personal perspective of the natural world. In this exhibit, she will showcase Missouri species.



## did you know

In 1984, Otis, the Conservation Mouse, began helping students learn about conservation through the *Learning with Otis* curriculum.



## NATURE CENTER HOURS

### BUILDING HOURS

**Tuesday-Saturday** Open 8:00AM to 5:00PM

Thursdays until 8:00PM

**Sunday and Monday:** Building Closed

### TRAIL HOURS

Open Daily 6:00AM to 9:00PM



# For the little ones



*Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.*

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."*

*~Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist*

**Babes In The Woods** Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus caregivers.

**Little Acorns** Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregivers.

**Little Acorns PLUS** If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program **AND** one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide the ages of your children.**

## July

Call 573/526-5544 on or after July 2nd to make your reservation.

### **Boisterous Bugs**

*By registration.* What's all that noise? Bugs? The sounds of summer are all around us. Bug sounds are as distinct as bird songs. Come and join our bug chorus this month.

### **Babes In The Woods**

Tuesday, July 10 – 10:00AM  
Thursday, July 26 – 10:00AM

### **Little Acorns**

Thursday, July 12 – 10:00AM  
Thursday, July 19 – 6:00PM

### **Little Acorns PLUS**

Saturday, July 14 – 10:00AM  
Tuesday, July 24 – 10:00AM

## August

Call 573/526-5544 on or after August 1st to make your reservation.

### **The Hungry Hummingbird**

*By registration.* Young birds have much to learn about finding food – what it looks like and where to find it! Using shapes and colors we will figure out what hummingbirds like to eat and where to find it.

### **Babes In The Woods**

Tuesday, August 7 – 10:00AM  
Thursday, August 23 – 10:00AM

### **Little Acorns**

Saturday, August 11 – 10:00AM  
Friday, August 24 – 10:00AM

### **Little Acorns PLUS**

Thursday, August 23 – 6:00PM  
Thursday, August 30 – 10:00AM

# July Events

Make your registration by calling after **8:00AM** on **July 2nd** to register for these programs 573/526-5544. If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

## Teen Club: Exploring the Big Muddy

**JULY 10 / TUESDAY / 9:00AM–3:00PM**

*By registration* (12-18 years) Jefferson City is situated on the banks of the Big Muddy or the Missouri River. Teen Club participants will have the opportunity to take a ride on the big river via a large jon boat with experienced river navigators and guides. Time will be spent exploring the sand bars and banks of the river and gazing up at the river bluffs. Participants must have a signed permission form from a parent/caregiver before attending. The permission form can be found at <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center/permission-forms> or we can mail you the form. Dress for the weather and the river - it is warm, wet, and windy. Wear sunscreen, hats, river shoes, and bring your lunch and water.

## Story Tree...on the Trail

**JULY 12 / THURSDAY / 6:00–7:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) The Story Tree goes outdoors. Walk the Naturescape Trail between 6 and 7 p.m. and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you. (In case of inclement weather the Story Tree will come indoors.)

## The Runge Hiking Club: Onondaga State Park

**JULY 14 / SATURDAY / 8:00AM–5:00PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

**Onondaga State Park**, located in Leasburg, is known for its spectacular caves and the abundance and quality of their speleothems (calcite deposits). We'll hike the Blue Heron Trail (1 mile, \*) on the way to the Deer Run Trail (2.5 miles, \*\*\*), where we'll hike to glades, ancient cedar trees, and panoramic overlooks of forested hills and the winding Meramec River. After lunch, we'll take a naturalist-led tour of Cathedral Cave (1 mile, \*\*\*\*). Bring your lunch, water, \$7 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather.

## What's Going On? Butterfly Surprise

**JULY 14 / SATURDAY / 10:00AM–2:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All Ages) This Saturday's "What's Going On" is all about YOU discovering butterflies. The colors, patterns, and behavior of this beloved insect are awaiting you. Some sweep nets will be available for further exploration.

## Midweek Trekkers: Lane Spring

**JULY 18 / WEDNESDAY /**

**8:00AM–5:00PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Most springs in Missouri have an obvious, single outlet, but Lane Spring is unusual. Each day, eleven million gallons of water erupt from dozens of underwater "boils" in the loose sand, ranging in size from coins to dinner plates. We'll visit **Lane Spring Recreation Area**, near Rolla, and hike the **Blossom Rock Trail** (1.25 miles) and the **Cedar Bluff Trail** (1.5 miles). Make a guess as to the origin of the odd, sandstone Blossom Rock. Hike on ridge top glades, where pine trees grow among the chinkapin oaks. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

## Nature's Needlers

**JULY 19 / THURSDAY / 10:30AM–Noon  
or 1:00–2:30PM or 6:00–7:30PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) In our seventh of the "Butterflies in Flight" series, we will be looking at the Baltimore Checkerspot. With its patchwork-colored wings of orange, white, brown, and black, the Baltimore Checkerspot is delightful to observe. Join us as we learn more about this beautiful butterfly and share a related quilt block.

## Nature Walk: Prairie Garden Trust

**JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 7:00AM–Noon**

*By registration* (18 years and older) Join us for a short walk to view the prairie plantings and see the water garden with the lotus and water lilies at the Prairie Garden Trust near New Bloomfield. Bring a water bottle. This will be an early, leisurely, and short hike before the day warms up. We will carpool from Runge Nature Center.

## Story Tree...on the Trail

**JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00AM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) Refer to July 12th for description.

## What's Going On?

### Weekday Activities

*Walk-in* (All ages) Stop by anytime on the following dates to enjoy tabletop exhibits, activities, and crafts.

### Incredible Insects

**JULY 10 / TUESDAY / 10:00–2:00PM**

**JULY 12 / THURSDAY / 5:00–7:00PM**

### Missouri Mammals

**JULY 17 / TUESDAY / 10:00–2:00PM**

**JULY 19 / THURSDAY / 5:00–7:00PM**

### Missouri Snakes

**JULY 24 / TUESDAY / 10:00–2:00PM**

**JULY 26 / THURSDAY / 5:00–7:00PM**

## Trail rating system

\*Easiest trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)

\*\*Slight inclines and/or few obstructions

(gravel, few rocks)

\*\*\*Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots

\*\*\*\*Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

\*\*\*\*\*Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)

## We are HUNGRY...

Join us as we feed the following Runge animals.

### Aquarium feeding:

July 13, Friday, 2:00PM

### Snake feeding:

July 25, Wednesday, 2:00PM



# August Events

Make your registration by calling after **8:00AM** on **August 1st** to register for these programs 573/526-5544. If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

## **Cardinals and Coffee—A Bird Walk** **AUGUST 2 / THURSDAY /**

**7:30–10:00AM**

*By registration* (18 years and older)

Join a naturalist for bird watching and shade-grown coffee. We will walk Runge's trails looking for the sights and sounds of birds. A few binoculars and identification books will be provided.

## **Puppet Theatre**

**AUGUST 4 / SATURDAY / 1:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) Come watch Runge puppeteers present two shows.

**Critters Curious About Caves**—It's summer in Missouri. Some critters seek cool places. Come watch curious animal puppets hunt in the hidden world for what they need. Snake searches for shade. Fish seeks cool water. Cricket looks for moist soil.

**Preserved for Natural Learning**—Grasshopper puppet found out she is not alone. Insects that used to be alive are tucked into drawers at Runge. Woodpecker tells her there are feathers in boxes, Bobcat explains there are claws in crates, and Bullfrog says even mounted animals are on shelves. Come watch this puppet show and see if the puppets discover why all these things are here.

## **Thursday Night Live...**

### **Hummers of Summer**

**AUGUST 9 / THURSDAY /**

**6:00–8:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All Ages) Follow the story of our smallest bird as it prepares for fall migration. This family event has something for all ages as we celebrate the ruby-throated hummingbird. See back page for additional details.

## **We are HUNGRY...**

Join us as we feed the fish in the large aquarium.

### **Aquarium feeding:**

August 10, Friday, 2:00PM

August 15, Wednesday, 2:00PM

## **The Runge Hiking Club: Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area**

**AUGUST 11 / SATURDAY /**

**8:00AM–5:00PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older)

This month we will travel to Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area and Nature Center in Jackson County. There are several short trails (.5 to 1.5 miles) throughout the 1071-acre area. We will hike 3–5 miles (\*\*), depending on the heat. In between trails, we'll visit the nature center to cool off. Bring water, lunch, and hiking shoes and come dressed for the weather.

## **Teen Club: Entomology 101**

**AUGUST 14 / TUESDAY /**

**10:00AM–2:00PM**

*By registration* (12–18 years) Insects rule the world! There are more insects than any other animal in the world and all living things depend on them. Spend a few hours with us netting, identifying, and learning about these important creatures. Then we will learn how to properly pin insects in order to study them further.

Wear comfortable clothes, a hat, and walking shoes. Bring a water bottle and your lunch. We will provide nets and pinning equipment.

## **Midweek Trekkers: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park**

**AUGUST 15 / WEDNESDAY /**

**8:00AM–5:00PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) This month we'll visit **Rock Bridge Memorial State Park**, near Columbia, to admire the park's beauty. We'll hike three trails, **Spring Brook Trail** (2.5 miles, \*\*\*), **Devil's Icebox Trail** (3/4 mile, \*\*\*) and **Sinkhole Trail** (1.5 miles). This combination of trails will lead us along creeks and through beautiful woodlands. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots, and come dressed for the weather.

## **Nature's Needlers**

**AUGUST 16 / THURSDAY /**

**10:30AM–Noon or 1:00–2:30PM or 6:00–7:30PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older)

Our eighth in the "Butterflies in Flight" series focuses on the Buckeye, a small but distinctive looking butterfly with its iridescent colors and large wing eye-spots. Join us as we learn about the Buckeye and share a related quilt block.

## **Story Tree...on the Trail**

**AUGUST 18 / SATURDAY /**

**10:00–11:00AM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) The Story Tree goes outdoors. Walk the Naturescape Trail between 10 and 11 a.m. and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you. (In case of inclement weather the Story Tree will come indoors.)

## **What's Going On?**

**SATURDAY / 10:00AM–2:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) **Every** Saturday Runge Nature Center offers tabletop exhibits, activities, and crafts. The following activities have already been scheduled.

## **Missing Naturalist Mystery**

**AUGUST 4**

Our naturalist has swiped items from the nature center and is hiding on the trails with them. Visit the front desk to receive a set of clues to find them.

## **What's Up At Runge**

**AUGUST 25**

Have you ever wanted to climb a fire tower? See what awaits you when you reach the top.

## **did you know**

- Hunter Safety Training began in 1958.

- Runge Conservation Nature Center was opened to the public in 1993.

# Scout Packs

Runge Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573/526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following scout packs.

## Boy Scouts:

**Wolf Cub:** Elective #13 - Birds

**Bear Cub:** Achievement #5 - Sharing Your World with Wildlife

**Webelos:** Naturalist & Forester Pack(s) Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.

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## did you know

Townsend Godsey was the first head of the Information Division. He created the Nature Knights (1939-1959), a conservation organization for youngsters. He also was responsible for the first issue of the Missouri Conservationist Magazine.

## Nature Shop News

July/August featured items



Discount price ... **\$12.00** each  
Heritage Card discount does not apply.

# Girl Scouting at Runge

Runge Nature Center is happy to help leaders and girls of the Girls Scouts of the Missouri Heartland work on their badges. Here are a few ways we can help:

## 1 Naturalist-led programs

Brownie Scouts—Senses Badge and Bug Badge  
Junior Scouts—Animal Habitat Badge  
Reservations for naturalist-led programs must be made at least two-weeks in advance. Groups must have a minimum of 10 scouts. Call 573-526-5544 or e-mail Robin.Grumm@mdc.mo.gov for further information.

## 2 Adventure Backpacks

Any size group may check out an Adventure Pack to help complete badges. The following packs are available: Insects, Tracks & Scat, Aquatic, and Art. Packs are available on a first come basis at the front desk.

## 3 Runge General Public Programs/Activities

listed in the Habitat Happenings often have components that fulfill badge requirements.

## 4 Scout Leader Binder

Stop by the front desk at Runge and look through the resource binder for pamphlets and information that may help you discover more about animals, gardening, flowers, insects, and hiking as you journey through the badges.

## 5 Runge exhibits, trails, and free publications

are always available to scouts, leaders, and families.

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## did you know

The Department's **Showboat** traveled back roads in 1946, bringing the conservation message to rural residents through movies and programs.



# Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

When you make your reservation (573/526-5544), please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

## Dragonflies: Water to Air

**July 17 – 6:30-8:00PM**

(Make your reservation between July 2 and July 13.)

The life cycle of a dragon that flies will be revealed tonight. Get yourself in order and search for Odonata's, a creature extant for 300 million years.



## Nature Art Festival

**August 21 – 6:30-8:00PM**

(Make your reservation between August 1 and August 17.)

Bring your creative side. Tonight, you become an artist using a myriad of natural items.

## Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, July 17th and August 21st**. Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.







Thursday Night Live...

# Hummers of Summer

August 9  
6-8pm



Follow the story of our smallest bird as it prepares for fall migration. This family event has something for all ages as we celebrate the ruby-throated hummingbird.

-  Hummingbird Interpretive Trail
-  Find Your Way (compass activity)
-  Discovery Tables
-  Crafts, free refreshments, and much more!

No reservations required.